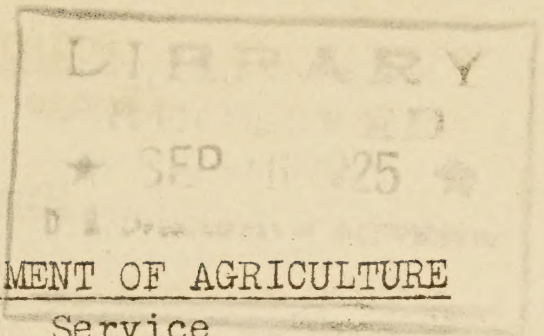


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

POISONOUS PLANTS

A scenic booth exhibit showing a range infested with loco weed; characteristics of important poisonous plants.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 6 ft. front  
Wall space- - - - - None (4 ft. deep  
Shipping weight - - - - - 525 lbs.  
Electrical requirements - - 110 volt A.C.  
or D.C. current - 200 watts needed for  
lights.



## POISONOUS PLANTS

(Range Program No. 1)

### How It Looks

This exhibit is made up into an enclosed or hollow type of booth. The main exhibit consists of a reproduction of a typical western scene in a grazing section where the poisonous loco weed is found in abundance. A number of accurately colored cutouts placed in several different planes make a scene about four feet deep which merges into the painted background making a very natural and pleasing scene when illuminated by the concealed electric lights.

At the bottom of the main exhibit are four illuminated transparencies which show the botanical characteristics of different important poisonous plants common in the West. The booth is 6 feet across the front, 4 feet deep and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet high.

### What It Tells

Plants which are injurious to domestic animals are found in all parts of the United States. The heaviest losses by poisoning, however, have occurred in the West, partly because of the methods used in handling animals on the range, and partly because those plants sometimes grow in that part of the country in large masses. Three groups of plants which are especially destructive in the range country have been chosen to illustrate the exhibit.

Larkspurs grow in the eastern United States and cause some losses, but they are found in especial abundance in the mountain regions of the West. They are poisonous to horses, but all the losses under range conditions are of cattle. Sheep can graze on larkspur without harmful effect, but heavy losses are caused in cattle. The exhibit shows pictures of cattle showing the characteristic symptoms of larkspur poisoning at various stages of the attack. A method of treating cattle poisoned by larkspur has



been found which will prevent a large part of the losses. It is also possible in restricted areas to grub out enough of the plants to prevent serious loss. For further information Department Bulletin 365 or Farmers' Bulletin 988 may be consulted.

The death camas species include several varieties which vary considerably in their poisonous properties. Losses have been reported from Utah, Nevada, Idaho, and eastern Oregon. The plants are poisonous to both cattle and sheep. Typical symptoms are salivation, weakness, and prostration. In serious cases of poisoning it is difficult to rouse the animals. Since some species of death camas are from three to seven times as poisonous as others, it is very desirable that stockmen be able to distinguish the most dangerous from the least dangerous plants. Details in regard to the death camas species may be found in Department Bulletin 1012.

The loco weeds are probably the most destructive of all the poisonous plants of the West. They affect cattle, horses, and sheep, and have caused enormous losses. The symptoms come on only after somewhat prolonged feeding, and recovery, if it occurs, is a long process. There are a number of loco weeds, and three of the most important are illustrated in the panel. Various closely related plants of the pea family are popularly called locos but are not poisonous. Loco plants are widely distributed, covering a large portion of the plains areas of the West. Methods of treatment have been devised by which recovery can be practically assured in regard to cattle, and horses may recover to such an extent as to be useful, although they are never so good as before suffering from the disease.

#### Where To Get Information

The following bulletin may be obtained free of charge from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin 1054 The Loco Weed Disease.



